



# Montgomery County Council

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*From the Office of Council President Valerie Ervin*

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*April 12, 2011*

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## **Council President Valerie Ervin Thanks Montgomery's State Delegation for Results in 2011 General Assembly Session**

ROCKVILLE, Md., April 12, 2011—Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin today thanked members of the Montgomery's State Delegation to the General Assembly for their efforts during the just-concluded 2011 session that resulted in passed legislation that was important to the residents of the County.

Legislation that was passed on April 11, the final day of the 2011 General Assembly session, included the following:

- House Bill 1213 (HB 1213), which increases the sales tax on alcohol starting this year from 6 percent to 9 percent, will provide \$9 million in public school construction funding for Montgomery County. These funds will be available in Fiscal Year 2012 and do not require a match of funds by the local government. These funds will be in addition to public school construction funding in the State's capital budget. Of that \$250 million source, Montgomery has been allocated \$21 million so far. There is still an additional \$62 million of that \$250 million to be allocated. The Interagency Committee on School Construction will soon make recommendations on those funds to the State's Board of Public Works. Some revenue from the increase in the alcohol tax also will provide needed additional funding for the Developmental Disabilities Administration wait list of people with developmental disabilities who do not currently qualify due to funding limitations.
- Several improvements and clarifications in the State's "Maintenance of Effort" education law, including a one-year delay in any penalty that may be imposed if counties do not meet the requirements of the law. The law requires a local school

system to spend at least as much money per pupil in a current year as it did in the previous year.

- Legislation that will require electricity-provider Pepco to meet performance standards for improved service. The approved bill allows penalties to be imposed immediately and increases the civil penalties to \$25,000 (from the originally proposed \$10,000) for each violation, per day.

“Montgomery’s State Delegation has done its residents proud. We hit the trifecta,” said Council President Ervin. “Passage of legislation regarding the Maintenance of Effort law, school construction funding and holding Pepco accountable for its service is the result of many people working very hard for a very long time to explain how important these issues were to the residents of Montgomery County. We know this is a very difficult year for the State budget—just as it is for the County budget that the County Council is now considering. That is why we are so appreciative for the legislation that our Senators and Delegates have passed, and we want our residents to know that these achievements will significantly impact what we are striving to accomplish in Montgomery County.”

The General Assembly session also produced a 7.6 percent increase in kindergarten-Grade 12 State education aid for Montgomery County, largely due to increased enrollment in County schools. The County received a small additional amount of highway user aid and will be getting State grant money for several library projects.

The Montgomery College campus in Rockville will benefit from more than \$6 million (the first installment of two) for its Science East project. The County also will be receiving about \$3.2 million for parks and other arts and cultural local projects.

“We are all one Montgomery County,” said Council President Ervin, “and we are all pleased that when we work together, Montgomery County wins.”

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